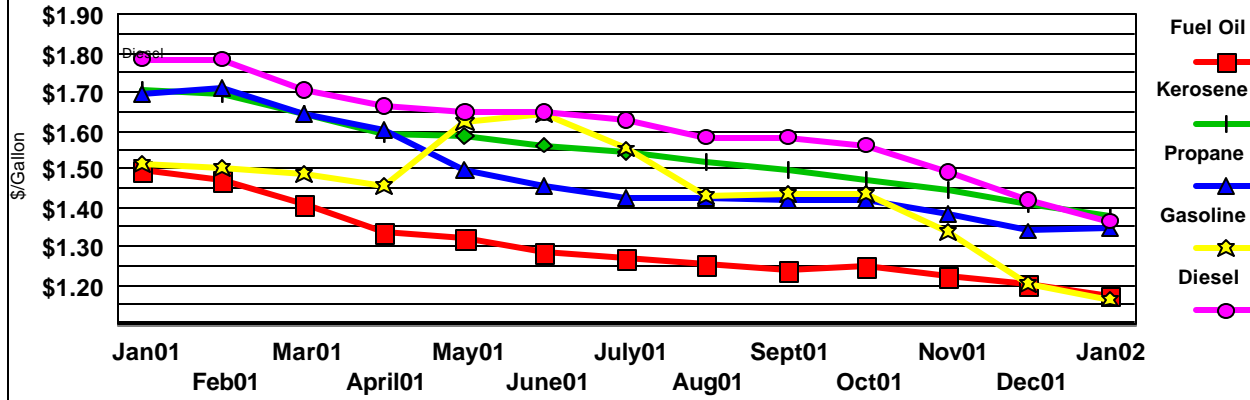


Vermont Fuel Price Report

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Vermont Picture

One Year Price Trend



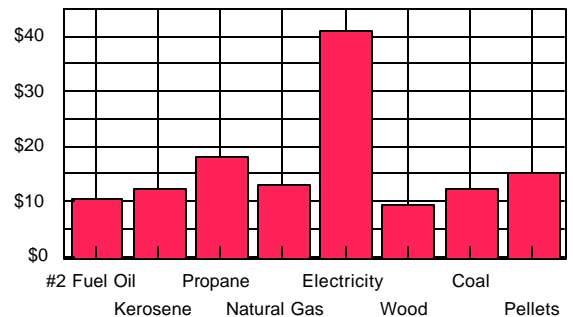
Average Retail Petroleum Prices (per gallon)

	Jan02	Dec01	%change	Jan01	%change
No. 2 Fuel Oil	\$1.17	\$1.20	-2.6%	\$1.50	-21.7%
Kerosene	\$1.38	\$1.41	-2.2%	\$1.71	-19.1%
Propane	\$1.34	\$1.34	0.1%	\$1.69	-20.6%
Unleaded Gasoline	\$1.16	\$1.20	-3.0%	\$1.51	-22.9%
Diesel	\$1.37	\$1.42	-3.6%	\$1.79	-23.5%

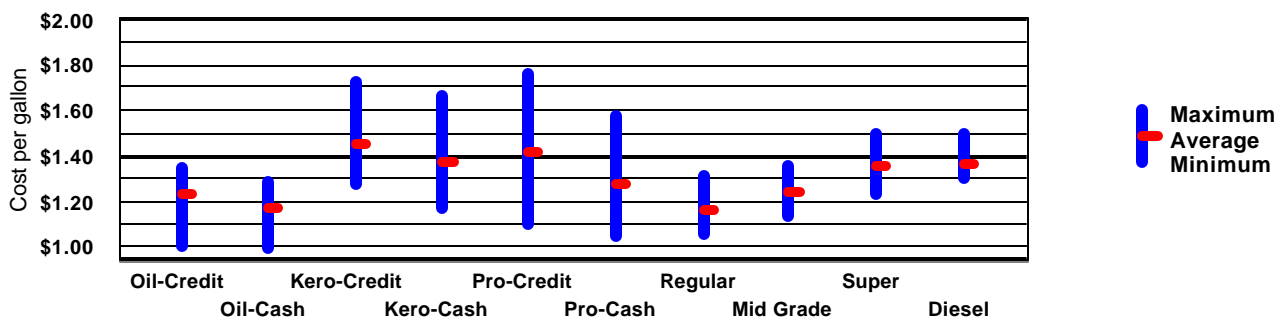
Comparing the Cost of Heating Fuels

Type of Energy	BTU/unit	Adj Effic	\$/unit	\$/MMBtu
Fuel Oil, gallon	138,200	80%	\$1.172	\$10.60
Kerosene, gallon	136,600	80%	\$1.379	\$12.62
Propane, gallon	91,600	80%	\$1.343	\$18.33
Natural Gas, therm	100,000	80%	\$1.050	\$13.13
Electricity, kwh	3,412	100%	\$0.141	\$41.39
Wood, cord	22,000,000	60%	\$125.00	\$9.47
Coal, ton	24,000,000	60%	\$182.00	\$12.64
Pellets, ton	16,000,000	75%	\$181.00	\$15.08

Cost per 1 Million BTU



Fuel Price Ranges in Vermont



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It's a Consumer's Winter - So Far

Warmer weather, full stocks, and the slow economy are working to keep residential heating bills significantly lower than last year. The table on the first page shows that the price of heating fuels is approximately twenty percent lower than this time last year. The warmer weather is just one of the factors helping to keep costs down.

- C The National Weather Service (NWS) has recorded 1357 heating degree days (HDD) in Burlington since the beginning of December, 373 less than normal and 432 less than last winter. Since July 1, the total is 2651 HDD, 692 less than normal and 729 less than last year. To keep your home at the same temperature as last year, assuming nothing else changed, would take approximately 25% less fuel. This warm spell is anticipated to continue. Heating demand in the Northeast is projected to be roughly 80% of normal for the next 10 days, with average temperatures 6 degrees F above normal.
- C The American Petroleum Institute reported that heating oil supplies rose last week to a level 10% higher than the start of the heating season and approximately 33% higher than a year ago.
- C As of January 4, natural gas inventories were 83% higher than a year ago, above the top of the five year average range. The commodity price of natural gas per MMBtu at the Henry Hub since October has been fluctuating between a high of about \$2.75 to a low of \$1.70. This compares to the \$5.00 to \$10.00 range it sat in last year. The lower price and ready availability of natural gas have reduced demand on distillate stocks from those users who can switch. In Canada, gas in storage fell by only 18 bcf in December, nearly 80% less than the average decline for the years 1998 through 2000.
- C So far this winter the commodity price of crude oil (quoted at WTI-Cushing) has ranged between \$17 and \$23/bbl, compared to last year's range of \$25 to \$37 per barrel. As of 1/10, the price has fallen for the last four days to below \$20/bbl on speculation that the OPEC attempt to limit production is falling apart.
- C The demand for jet fuel was at its lowest level for the month of December since 1994.

All of this is good news for consumers who have not been adversely affected by the slowing economy. For those who are suffering the brunt of the economic downturn, Vermont's Fuel Assistance Office has resources to help. Contact them toll-free at **(800) 479-6151**.

NOTE: The *Vermont Fuel Price Report* is published monthly by the Vermont Department of Public Service. Prices are collected on or about the first Monday of each month and, unless otherwise indicated, reflect dealer discounts for cash or self-service. For more information, please contact:
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